


8-28-1888

Letter: Lafayette McLaws to Isaac R. Pennypacker, August 28, 1888

Lafayette McLaws

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Recommended Citation

McLaws, Lafayette, "Letter: Lafayette McLaws to Isaac R. Pennypacker, August 28, 1888" (1888). *The Lafayette McLaws Papers*. Book 8.
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Savannah Georgia

August. 28. 1888.

J A Remppacker
Pine Pa

Dear Sir

I herewith send you a Photo
of myself taken some eight or ten years
past. This in compliance with your
request in your letter of the 25th rec^d.

Yesterday. It has become indistinct
by age and the effects of this moist
climate. but if it will answer your
purpose. I will be gratified as I feel
complimented by the desire expressed
for it.

As for Gen Long's Divⁿ: this Corps was composed
of three Divisions Commanded respectively
by McLaw. Hood & Pickett. and his Army
by Gen E P Alexander. He knew these his Divisions
Commanders, and his Chief of Staff, Reginald Aug

instructions that he could give, and therefore
never gave any, beyond the order of march
and marching, and all matters of detail. He
never had conferences with his Division Commanders,
who in turn never sought him, except to get "the
news" - never for advice, for they were
fully his equals ^{in ability} - nor did he seek Council
nor conferences with his equals in rank, nor
even with his Superiors. He allowed himself
to be influenced by very inferior personages
either of his Staff, or from those of his Command
nor his Division Commanders, who were seeking
a doancement by flattery, his Def Council, already
offensive in its exhibits, or by innuendoes or
lies intended to depreciate, down or on two
of his Division Commanders, who seldom went
to Camp N^o 202 when neither amusement nor
information was obtainable.

He was placed prominently forward, in the first
instance, because he was connected by marriage
with the f. f. b. his wife being a Miss Garland

of Virginia, and then by Def American
Council. He persisted pushing himself
at Head Quarters, regardless of the Claims
or Merits of any others, in fact he depended
strongly of all others, regardless of even the
truth if it was in his way. He gained his
final position - He is a brave man, and this
with his obstinacy and Def assertion
placed him far beyond his Merits, such
at least as history will award him.

He was incapable of conducting a Campaign
from the evolutions of his own brain
and his jealousy, of advice was so great
that really at times it seemed as if
he professed that of the many rather
than to take it from one of his Subordinates,
and had taken it from the opposing
Commander, - A notable instance
of this characteristic is, the conduct of the
Campaign against the Apaches, which he Com-
manded. For he could not have ordered

movements, more to the advantage of
the opposing forces, if he had acted
only in conformity of the wishes of Burnside
and Gen Grant. The Expedition was
such a remarkable failure, when
it should have been a success. That
those who knew of events as they happened
have attributed the fault, committed
to a desire of Laury's. Not to Deane's!
But I think they are attributable
rather to his badly balanced nature
which unfitted him for Superior
Command.

I beg leave to express my sympathy
for yourself & family in affliction

Very truly yours,

I M. Law,

Gen^l Laury's Mother was a Deut. of
the same blood as the wife of Gen^l Grant.
- hence the cause of the suspicion with which
some persons have regarded the "Crisis" conduct
of Gen^l L. when he happened to be opposed to Gen^l Grant's
- strategy. & Term &c.